

Message Text

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APPROVED BY S/S:MR. MOFFAT

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O 161502Z MAY 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114373

NODIS

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC FROM DAMASCUS 16 MAY 75:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1790

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, SY

SUBJ: SYRIAN INTENTIONS RE UNDOF

REFS: A. STATE 113079 (TEL AVIV 2969); B. DAMASCUS 1600

1. SYRIAN MEDIA HAS CONTINUED PRESERVE SILENCE REPORTED
DAMASCUS 1600 RE UNDOF RENEWAL.

2. AS INSTRUCTED I HAVE NOT INITIATED ANY DISCUSSIONS
THIS ISSUE WITH SARG OFFICIALS. ONLY RANKING OFFICIAL
TO MENTION QUESTION TO ME HAS BEEN PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL
ADVISOR DAOUDI WHO A FEW DAYS AGO COMMENTED THAT HE
ASSUMED USG REALIZED SYRIA HAD TAKEN NO DECISION AND
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THAT STATEMENT BY BAATHI NATIONAL COMMAND MEMBER SUKKARIYAH

HAD NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED. DAOUDI ADDED HE UNSURE OF FINAL RESULTS OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SARG AND UN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL GUYER. (GUYER'S VISIT WENT UNPUBLICIZED HERE. WE UNDERSTAND HE LEFT DAMASCUS O/A MAY 10.)

3. WITH LESS THAN TWO WEEKS REMAINING BEFORE EXPIRATION OF MANDATE, SARG'S CONTINUED SILENCE IS UNDERSTANDABLE SOURCE OF CONCERN TO EVERYONE AND WE, TOO, WOULD HOPE THERE WOULD NOT BE A REPEAT OF THE NOVEMBER TENSIONS ON GOLAN. AS STATED DAMASCUS 1600 WE BELIEVE SYRIA INTENDS RENEW. FURTHERMORE WE SUSPECT ACTUAL DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN AND SYRIANS HAVE JUST BEEN LOOKING FOR THE BEST OCCASION FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT. SADAT'S EIGHTEEN HOUR VISIT HERE BEGINNING MAY 17 MAY PROVIDE THAT OCCASION.

4. RE SYRIA'S OWN STATE OF MILITARY READINESS, WE CAN CONFIRM THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME HEIGHTENED ALERT ON PART OF SYRIAN MILITARY; HOWEVER, WE CANNOT DETERMINE ITS FULL SCOPE. WE ARE FAIRLY CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT FOCUS OF THIS ACTIVITY IS NORTH AND EAST OF DAMASCUS IN CONNECTION WITH SYRIA'S CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH IRAQ. DATT TRAVELED TO KUNEITRA MAY 13 AND SAW NOTHING UNUSUAL. SYRIANS WERE CONTINUING TO IMPROVE THEIR DEFENSE WORKS. WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SEVERAL UN OFFICERS DURING RECENT DAYS AND NONE HAVE REGISTERED CONCERN. WE HOPE HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SYRIAN MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN NEXT FEW DAYS AND WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR SITUATION AS CLOSELY AS OUR CAPABILITIES ALLOW.

5. DEPT PLEASE PASS AMMAN, CAIRO, TEL AVIV.
MURPHY UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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